

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the instant application in view of the aforementioned amendments and the following remarks. Claims 98-111 and 138-147 are pending in the application. In the instant office action, the Examiner rejected the pending claims but noted that several claims (including claim 109) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have incorporated the language of claim 109 into independent claims 98 and 138. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these independent claims, and all claims dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional and continuation applications directed to the remaining claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues which may advance the prosecution of the instant application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-4500, Order No. 3553-4020US2.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an

extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3553-4020US2. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: November 5, 2003

By:

Daniel K. Shevchenko Registration No. 53,585
Walter G. Hanchuk
Reg. No. 35,179

Mailing Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10154
(212) 758-4800
(212) 751-6849 Telecopier